

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



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Labeling Law Becomes Effective With President's Signature

The McNary-Mapes labeling bill is ready for the President's signature and will become effective immediately upon being signed.

It is expected that the Department of Agriculture will at once undertake the determination of the standards for which the law provides.

Although canned meats and canned milk are excluded from the provisions of this law, the number of products for which standards are to be established is large and the task of determining these standards will necessarily take considerable time. Under these circumstances it is impossible to make predictions as to the dates by which the standards will be promulgated.

When the standards are promulgated, the law provides that the Department of Agriculture shall give public notice not less than ninety days in advance of the date or dates on which the standards shall become effective.

Customs Ruling for Duty on Fish Brought in by Undocumented Vessels Revoked

The Commissioner of Customs, in a ruling made public June 27, has directed collectors of customs to admit free of duty fish caught beyond the three-mile limit in ocean waters and brought into American ports by resident aliens in small, undocumented vessels.

The action revokes a portion of the ruling of April 28, 1930, which held that all fish caught beyond the three-mile limit and brought into American ports were dutiable.

The ruling was embodied in a letter addressed to the collector of customs at Portland, Oregon, as follows:

"The Department duly received your letter of May 28, 1930, (267-9), enclosing a copy of a complaint filed by a resident alien fisherman against you as collector of customs for the recovery of certain duty assessed upon fish brought into your port from the high seas.

"It appears from your letter that in this assessment of duty on the fish caught beyond the three-mile limit you were following the instructions in the Department's decision of April 28, 1930, addressed to collectors of customs and others concerned, to assess duty upon fish of the character provided for in the dutiable section of the tariff act when brought into the United States from the high seas in vessels owned by aliens, whether documented or undocumented.

"Following the publication of the instructions above referred to, numerous protests were received from resident alien fishermen and after reconsideration of this matter the Department reached the conclusion that so much of T. D. 43988 as applied to the fish caught on the high seas in undocumented boats by resident aliens should be revoked, and the Department, accordingly, submitted the question to the Attorney General under the provisions of paragraph (b) of section 502 of the tariff act of 1922 (which has been reenacted in the tariff act of 1930) and the Attorney General in a letter dated June 18, 1930, expresses the opinion that fish caught beyond the three-mile limit by resident aliens in small undocumented vessels are not subject to duty when brought into the United States, and he, accordingly, recommends the revocation of T. D. 43988 in so far as it relates to fish caught beyond the three-mile limit by resident aliens in small undocumented vessels.

"In the view of the foregoing, that portion of T. D. 43988 directing the assessment of duty upon fish caught on the high seas by resident aliens in undocumented vessels and brought into the United States, is hereby revoked. Accordingly, no duty shall be assessed upon such fish nor should entry of the fish be required."

Australian Subsidy on Export Apricots

According to information received by the U. S. Department of Commerce the Australian Government has decided to make available an amount not exceeding 4,000 pounds (approximately

\$19,400) to assist Australian canners in the marketing in Great Britain of their surplus production of this season's canned apricots.

The pack of canned apricots, peaches, and pears this year reached a record, about 1,700,000 cases having been processed, as compared with 1,186,000 cases in 1929. A subsidy of 12 cents a dozen would be paid on canned apricots, but only those canneries which had paid for all fruit accepted for canning at 9 pounds a ton (\$39.10 per short ton) for peaches and 11 pounds per ton (\$47.80 per short ton) for pears and apricots, and which had exported 40 per cent of their total pack before December 31, would be eligible for the subsidy. In the event of the total claims from all sources exceeding 4,000 pounds the claims would be paid on a pro-rata basis.

Truck Crop Markets

During the week ended June 28, for the first time in many weeks, the combined forwardings of 35 fruits and vegetables exceeded the corresponding shipments of last season. Movement of these products was 40 per cent greater than the preceding week, and 1,600 cars heavier than a year ago. Output reached 27,150 cars for the seven-day period, chiefly because of the heavier 1930 shipments of watermelons, potatoes, tomatoes, beans, peaches, and western deciduous fruits. Watermelon movement alone exceeded 10,400 cars last week and potatoes 6,250, with cantaloupes and tomatoes requiring more than 1,700 cars each.

New-crop apple shipments increased to 190 cars, of which Illinois furnished 115. The apple season opened in Delaware, Maryland and West Virginia. Movement of cabbage was down to 150 cars for the week, compared with 475 a year ago. Most active shipping States were Missouri, Illinois and New Jersey. First shipments were reported from Colorado and Ohio. Output of celery in southern California decreased to 120 cars, while Michigan increased to 35 and the season began in Oregon.

Cherry shipments were increasing and required 460 cars last week. Washington started 240 cars of cherries to market, Idaho 115, and Oregon 75 cars. As movement of North Carolina cucumbers dropped to 220 cars, the week's total from all States was only 315. Virginia furnished 30 cars, and movement started in Maryland.

Both Imperial Valley and the southern district of California were shipping grapes; output increased to 55 cars for the week.

New York State was leading as a source of green peas. The week's total forwardings of peas doubled to 190 cars, of which New York supplied 95, Idaho 55, and Washington 15. Orange shipments from California increased slightly to 750 cars, but were less than half as heavy as a year ago.

California plums and prunes were moving more actively and required 670 cars, compared with 260 during the same period last summer.

Tomato movement from Mississippi decreased to 390 cars, and eastern Texas shipped only 535, while Tennessee increased greatly to 570 and South Carolina to 125 cars. Arkansas was active and Virginia was starting. Total of 1,725 cars was 450 more than a year ago.

Total shipments of peaches for the week increased to 1,090 cars. Georgia increased to 1,050 cars, and light shipments came from a few other States.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

| Commodity | June 22-25 1930 | June 15-21 1929 | June 22-25 1929 | Total this season to June 25 | Total last season to June 25 | Total last season |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Apples: | | | | | | |
| 1930 season | 197 | 160 | 262 | 377 | 509 | 102,651 |
| 1929 season | 92 | 141 | 74 | 102,651 | 127,523 | 127,523 |
| Cabbage | 149 | 280 | 474 | 15,219 | 31,995 | 44,148 |
| Carrots | 75 | 130 | 92 | 9,151 | 8,795 | 13,109 |
| Cherries | 438 | 300 | 387 | 1,809 | 1,334 | 2,297 |
| Cucumbers | 314 | 682 | 384 | 4,995 | 5,355 | 7,456 |
| Green peas | 190 | 55 | 100 | 3,692 | 3,122 | 3,197 |
| Mixed deciduous fruit .. | 189 | 222 | 233 | 617 | 668 | 3,193 |
| Mixed vegetables | 395 | 442 | 411 | 18,949 | 19,949 | 35,420 |
| Peaches | 1,090 | 727 | 710 | 2,231 | 2,461 | 25,451 |
| Peppers | 104 | 145 | 123 | 1,930 | 2,122 | 2,383 |
| Plums and prunes | 671 | 559 | 237 | 2,067 | 990 | 6,048 |
| String beans | 237 | 419 | 165 | 8,371 | 7,074 | 8,687 |
| Tomatoes | 1,725 | 1,926 | 1,277 | 17,774 | 16,195 | 31,946 |

Weather Conditions

Temperatures were mostly moderate during the week ended July 2 in the northern portion of the country, with intermittent showers in practically all parts, according to the U. S. Weather Bureau. In the South the weather was unusually warm and mostly dry, though showers occurred in east Gulf sections at the close of the week. Maximum temperatures were high throughout the period in southern states, with considerable areas reporting 100 degrees, or higher, every day.

Rainfall was rather unevenly distributed, but most sections from the Ohio and lower Missouri valleys northward received moderate to substantial falls, which was also the case rather gen-

erally in the Atlantic area and some east Gulf sections. In the lower Mississippi Valley, however, from western Kentucky and southeastern Missouri southward, including most of Tennessee, very little rain occurred, with most stations reporting an entirely dry week. The west Gulf area was practically rainless, and from the central and southern Great Plains westward large areas received no rain.

While showers were rather numerous in the northern half of the country, they were mostly moderate and intermittent, which made the week, in general, favorable for seasonal farm operations.

Business Conditions

Business for the week ended June 29, as measured by the volume of checks presented for payment, showed a decline from a week ago but was slightly greater than for the week ended June 30, 1929. The volume of building for the latest reported period showed a gain when compared with the prior week and was higher than a year ago.

Wholesale prices declined slightly from last week's level and were more than 13 per cent lower than the same week a year ago. Iron and steel prices measured by the composite index, while showing no change from a week ago, were 9 per cent lower than the same period of 1929.

Bank loans and discounts remained at the same level of the preceding week and showed an increase of 2 per cent over the week ended June 29, 1929.

Interest rates for both call and time money declined from the preceding week and the week ended June 30, last year. The number of business failures showed no change from the preceding week.

Movement of commodities, as shown by statistics covering the latest reported week, was less than for the preceding week and for the same week a year ago.

CAR LOADINGS

| | Total | Miscellaneous | Merchandise L. C. L. | Other |
|--------------------------------|-----------|---------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Week ended June 21 | 939,839 | 364,396 | 240,879 | 315,694 |
| Preceding week | 927,754 | 366,454 | 243,045 | 318,255 |
| Corresponding week, 1929 | 1,069,674 | 429,737 | 259,876 | 380,761 |
| Corresponding week, 1928 | 976,360 | 393,996 | 236,466 | 345,998 |

Trend of Wholesale Grocery Trade in May

Reports to the Federal reserve system by wholesale firms selling groceries, dry goods, hardware, and drugs indicate that

in all these lines sales in the month of May were smaller than a year ago. For the period January 1 to May 31 sales of dry goods, hardware and drugs were smaller than a year ago and those of groceries were about the same. The sales of groceries, by districts, show the following changes:

| | May, 1930, compared with May, 1929 Per Cent | Jan 1—May 31, 1930, compared with Jan. 1—May 31, 1929 Per Cent |
|---------------------|--|---|
| Boston | 0 | -2 |
| New York | -3 | -1 |
| Philadelphia | -3 | -2 |
| Cleveland | -3 | -1 |
| Richmond | -6 | -1 |
| Atlanta | -13 | -7 |
| Chicago | -9 | +1 |
| St. Louis | -7 | -3 |
| Minneapolis | -4 | +1 |
| Kansas City | +8 | -3 |
| Dallas | -6 | -3 |
| San Francisco | -1 | +3 |
| Total | -4 | -1 |

Heavy Canned Pineapple Pack in Porto Rico

According to information radioed to the Department of Commerce by the American Trade Commissioner at San Juan, production of canned pineapples in Porto Rico is breaking all past records.

Prospects are for a light fall and heavy spring crop of grapefruit.

Canadian Customs Ruling on Imported Fish

A customs ruling issued June 4, 1930, by the Canadian Commissioner of Customs, gave the following tariff classifications for fish, according to information furnished the Department of Commerce by the American Commercial Attache at Ottawa:

"All fish, whole or otherwise, whether packed in oil or not, regardless of size or similarity to anchovies, sardines, or sprats, when in tin boxes weighing (with contents) 36 ounces each, or less, are to be classified under item 120, which provides for rates under the general tariff, applying to imports from the United States, varying from 6 cents to 2½ cents per box, according to weight; fish preserved in oil, when in tin boxes weighing (with contents) over 36 ounces each, or in receptacles other than tin boxes, are to be classified under item 121, dutiable at 35 per cent ad valorem; and fish, prepared or preserved, except in oil, when in tin boxes weighing (with contents), over 36 ounces each, or in receptacles other than tin boxes, are to be classified

under item 123, which provides for a rate of 30 per cent ad valorem."

The above ruling does not apply to such fish bona fide ordered prior to June 4, 1930, if entered on or before July 31, 1930, on proof of order satisfactory to the collector of national revenue; nor to herrings, pickled or salted; salmon or other fish, fresh, pickled, or salted; nor to smoked, boneless, nor dried fish.

Commerce Department Conducting Survey of Jam and Jelly Production

Upon the request of jam and jelly manufacturers, through the medium of the National Preservers Association, the Commerce Department's foodstuffs division beginning June 28 will conduct a survey to determine for the first time the production of jellies and preserves in the United States.

Embracing 365 manufacturers known to the National Preservers Association the jam and jelly industry of the United States does an annual business of \$38,000,000, according to figures compiled by the Bureau of the Census.

A questionnaire, compiled with the advice of a committee of the National Preservers Association is now in the mails, being sent to all the manufacturers in the country of whom the Department has record.

Questions included in the questionnaire are: Production of all compositions, preserves and jams, jellies, marmalades, fruit butter; whether the preserves are of standard or sub-standard composition, or imitation; which geographical area of the country likes standard compositions and which likes sub-standard or imitation; whether the products are distributed direct to chain stores, wholesalers, or direct to independent dealers.

Forecast of Canned Food Shipments During Third Quarter

Shipment of canned food products, including catsup, jams, jellies, olives, pickles, preserves, etc., during the third quarter of 1930, are forecast by the Shipper's Regional Advisory Boards at 55,349 carloads, as compared with actual shipments of 57,789 carloads in the third quarter of 1929, a decrease of 4.2 per cent.

Shipments of the 29 principal commodities of all kinds during the third quarter of 1930, it is estimated, will be 6.5 per cent below the corresponding period of 1929.

Semi-Annual Index of Letter

This week's issue contains an index of articles appearing in the Information Letter during the first half of the year. The index is so printed that it can be removed by those who maintain a file of the Letters or have them bound, and placed immediately after the last number issued in June.

Farm Prices in June

The index of the general level of farm prices declined 1 point from May 15 to June 15, and at 123 per cent of the pre-war level on June 15, the index was 12 points lower than a year ago and was at the lowest level since October, 1922, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Publications of Interest to Cannerymen

"Berry Cultivation in Western Washington" is the title of a 24-page, illustrated bulletin recently issued by the Experiment Station at Puyallup, Wash. The bulletin is devoted chiefly to the red raspberry, and gives the results of a series of tests to determine the best system of cultivation.

The Quarterly Bulletin of the Agricultural Experiment Station at East Lansing, Michigan, issued in May, contains a 6-page article on fertilizing the black raspberry. The fertilizer trials reported in this article showed that applications of nitrogen result in heavier early season production and increased production per acre.

Markets for fruit juices and fruit syrups in Latin-America are discussed in Trade Information Bulletin No. 702 recently issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. An earlier bulletin issued by the Bureau reported on the continental European markets for these articles. The importance of the Latin-American markets is indicated by the fact that of the exports of fruit juices, syrups, and flavors for beverages in 1929, about 23 per cent went to Latin-America.

Detailed information on the origin and distribution of the commercial strawberry crop is given in a 104-page publication issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture as Technical Bulletin No. 180. The bulletin covers such subjects as the commercial position of the crop, production areas, yields, crop-movement period, car unloads at 50 important markets, transportation costs, and a review of the strawberry industry by states from 1920 to 1926, inclusive.